United Nations A/63/888–S/2009/321

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 June 2009

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 21
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 19 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 June 2009, addressed to me in my capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of June, by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-37614 (E) 250609

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Annex to the letter dated 19 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It has come to our attention that the representative of the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus in New York addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council on 5 June 2009 (S/2009/296), in which he distorts the realities of Cyprus and slanders the Turkish side.

At the outset, I wish to note that Turkey's vote against Security Council resolution 1873 (2009) should come as no surprise to anyone concerned with the Cyprus question. Successive resolutions of the Council on Cyprus have not been accepted by the Turkish side on account of the references made in these resolutions to the "Government of Cyprus" which is, in fact, solely a Greek Cypriot administration. This erroneous approach to consider the Greek Cypriot side as the "Government of Cyprus", since Council resolution 186 (1964), constitutes the crux of the Cyprus question.

I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot representative that it was his own leader, the late Archbishop Makarios, who had confirmed that there exists no "Cypriot" nation (in the Greek Cypriot daily newspaper *Cyprus Mail* of 28 March 1963). I also would like to refresh the representative's memory on the fact that the Republic of Cyprus was founded in 1960 in accordance with international treaties by the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples, in their respective capacities as two political equals, who entered into a partnership, setting up a joint State. Hence the provisions in the now-defunct 1960 Constitution for a Greek Cypriot President and Turkish Cypriot Vice-President, their separate veto rights and the separate majorities in the elections. The legitimacy of the 1960 Republic lay in the joint presence and effective participation of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots in all organs of the State. Neither of the parties had the right to rule the other or assume the right to be the Government of the other or the island as a whole in the absence of the other in all organs of the State and its Government.

The partnership Republic of Cyprus was destroyed by the Greek Cypriot partner's onslaught on the Turkish Cypriot partner in December 1963, when all Turkish Cypriot members in all the State organs were forcibly ejected from their positions and the basic articles of the Constitution were unilaterally changed. Efforts of the Turkish Cypriot members of the House of Representatives to return to the House and take up their seats, and the refusal of the Greek Cypriot side to comply, are fully recorded in the report of the then Secretary-General of the United Nations as follows:

> "The Turkish Cypriot members requested UNFICYP to extend its good offices to enable them to receive information about the time of meeting of the House, and to make arrangements for the Turkish Cypriot members to attend such meetings in safety. They specified that, if officially invited and notified about matters to be considered, as required by the constitution, they would be prepared to attend Parliament on all questions, not only on the two bills now pending ... Mr. Clerides stated that unless the Turkish Cypriot members accepted the conditions [stripping them of their constitutional rights as copartners] laid down by him, he found it pointless to supply to them copies of the pending bills ... He made it plain that, unless agreement was reached on

these matters, he would not permit the Turkish Cypriot members to attend the House ... He subsequently stated that in his opinion the Turkish Cypriot members had no legal standing any more in the House." (S/6569 and Corr.1)

In consequence, since December 1963 there has not been a joint central administration in the island, capable of representing the whole of Cyprus, either legally or factually. Each side has since ruled itself, while the Greek Cypriot side has continued to claim illegitimately that it is the "Government of Cyprus".

With regard to references by the Greek Cypriot representative to the "use of force" and "the establishment of an illegitimate regime", I would like to recall that the division of the island territorially, ethnically and administratively came about in 1963 as a direct consequence of the Greek Cypriot forceful attacks on the Turkish Cypriot people; hence the creation of the Green Line by the British contingent on the island and the arrival of the United Nations peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in 1964. It is also important to note that the Turkish intervention, which was carried out in accordance with Turkey's rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, did not come about until 1974 and was the direct result of the coup d'etat, carried out by the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot front, which aimed to annex the island to Greece and annihilate the Turkish Cypriot people in line with the notorious Akritas Plan. Therefore, contrary to the Greek Cypriot representative's claim, the only occupation in the island is the 46-year-long occupation of the seat of "Government of Cyprus" by the Greek Cypriot administration.

As for UNFICYP's presence on the island, although UNFICYP has played a valuable role, especially during 1963-1974, the fact that it could not prevent the tragic incidents that took place during this period is yet another proof that it is Turkey's presence that maintains peace and security on the island. However, there is a real problem with the mandate of the Force. Though UNFICYP has to function with the consent of the two sides on the island, in practice, relevant resolutions and mandates of UNFICYP are being formulated without the consent of the Turkish Cypriot side.

It should be borne in mind that it was the Turkish Cypriot people, with the support of Turkey, which overwhelmingly voted for the Annan plan. Therefore, it is ironic that the representative of an administration which campaigned for and achieved the rejection of the Annan plan, the embodiment of "a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality as set out in Security Council resolutions", blames Turkey "to be the reason why this problem remains unresolved". Instead of playing with words and claiming that the Turkish side desires a two-State solution, the Greek Cypriot side should come forth with the "mentality" change it advocates and honour the agreement of 23 May 2008 (S/2008/353, annex III) reached between the two leaders in the island which commits the two sides to "a Federal Government" with "a Turkish Cypriot Constituent State and a Greek Cypriot Constituent State, which will be of equal status". I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot representative that this agreement also refers to the establishment of a new "partnership". The leaders used this terminology after they both confirmed during the meeting that the 1960 arrangement was a partnership State and that the task before them now was to renew that partnership with a comprehensive settlement. Thus, the Greek Cypriot representative's claim that the 1960 Republic "was not a 'partnership State'", openly contradicts what his leader said on various occasions not only during the negotiations but before the public as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to state, once again, that the Turkish Cypriot side remains as committed as ever to finding a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue on the basis of the established United Nations parameters and the United Nations body of work in 2009 under the United Nations Secretary-General's mission of good offices.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/63/889–S/2009/322

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 15
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 17 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 1 to 14 June 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Permanent Representative

09-37645 (E) 230609 240609

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Annex to the identical letters dated 17 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 1 to 14 June 2009, inclusive

Air violations

On 1 June 2009:

- Between 0720 and 2040 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South and left over Naqurah.
- Between 1230 and 1335 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Beirut. It circled over the sea off Beirut, five miles from the shore, before leaving over the sea off Naqurah.

On 2 June 2009:

- Between 0705 and 2205 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north. It circled over the South, the Western Bekaa and Rashayya and left over Aytarun.
- Between 1420 and 1700 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Beirut and flying east. It circled over the sea off Beirut before leaving over the sea off Naqurah.

On 4 June 2009:

- Between 1840 and 2210 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah. It circled over the sea off Beirut, five miles from the shore, before leaving over the sea off Naqurah.
- At 0830 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South and left at 0020 hours on 5 June 2009 over Naqurah.

On 5 June 2009:

- Between 1845 and 1955 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Beirut and flying east as far as West Beirut. It circled over the sea off Beirut before leaving over the sea off Naqurah.

On 6 June 2009:

- Between 1000 and 2125 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north. It circled over the South before leaving over Naqurah.

On 8 June 2009:

- Between 1210 and 1430 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north. It circled over the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 9 June 2009:

- Between 1635 and 2235 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving over Rumaysh.

On 10 June 2009:

- Between 1030 and 1150 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the Shab'a Farms and flying north as far as Beirut. They circled between Beirut and the South before leaving over the sea off Naqurah.

On 11 June 2009:

- Between 0715 and 2350 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north. It circled over the regions of the South, Riyaq and Baalbek and left over Naqurah.

On 12 June 2009:

- Between 0715 and 1345 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South and left over Rumaysh.

On 13 June 2009:

- Between 0910 and 1645 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north as far as Nabatiyah. It circled over the South and left over Naqurah.

On 14 June 2009, eight Israeli enemy warplanes and three Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace as follows:

- At 1130 hours, four warplanes entered over Khiyam, flying north. They circled over the South and Beirut and left at 1200 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

- At 1135 hours, two warplanes entered over Kafr Killa, flying north. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1240 hours over the sea off Tripoli.

- At 1255 hours, two warplanes entered over the sea off Sidon, flying south. They left at 1305 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

- At 1022 hours, a reconnaissance aircraft entered over Naqurah, flying north. It circled over the regions of Damur, Sa'diyat and Beirut and left at 2120 hours over Kafr Killa.

- At 1857 hours, a reconnaissance aircraft entered over the sea off Tyre, flying north. It circled over the sea off Beirut, Rumaylah and Tyre and left at 2200 hours over Naqurah.

– At 2325 hours, a reconnaissance aircraft entered over Naqurah, flying north. It circled over the sea off Beirut and left at 0040 hours on 15 June 2009 over the sea off Naqurah.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 4 June 2009:

– At 2020 and 2022 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Zaraghit, on two occasions directed a searchlight for an average of five seconds each time towards Lebanese territory.

On 5 June 2009, at 1430 hours, inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory facing the Kafr Killa-'Addusiyah road, workers repairing the road noticed an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer jeeps. The patrolmen shouted and brandished weapons at the workmen and a picture of Mr. Hassan Nasrallah.

On 9 June 2009, at 2220 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Zaraghit, directed a searchlight for five seconds towards the Tarbikha Gate (Marwahin).

United Nations A/63/890

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 23
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 12 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note dated 28 May 2009 from the Government of the Argentine Republic to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in which it objects to and rejects the entire contents of the submission made by the latter on 11 May 2009 to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, which refers to the continental shelf of the Argentine Republic (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 23, Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

(*Signed*) Jorge **Arguello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-37667 (E) 240609 240609

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Annex to the letter dated 12 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and refers to the submission made by that country on 11 May 2009 to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

The Government of the Argentine Republic recalls that General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25 concerning the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) recognize the existence of a dispute over sovereignty and urge the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to that dispute at the earliest possible opportunity.

Without prejudice to the representations that will be made in due course by the Government of Argentina to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf with respect to the United Kingdom submission of 11 May 2009, the Government of the Argentine Republic firmly objects to and rejects the entire contents of the submission made by the latter on 11 May 2009 to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, which refers to the continental shelf of the Argentine Republic. Furthermore, the Government of the Argentine Republic rejects the references in point 7 of the submission to the illegitimate British authorities that have been established in the disputed archipelagos, which are not recognized by the Government of the Argentine Republic.

The Government of the Argentine Republic reasserts its legitimate right of sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of its national territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Buenos Aires, 20 May 2009

United Nations A/63/890*

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 23
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 12 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 23, Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

(*Signed*) Jorge **Arguello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

09-37667 (E) 240609 260609

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The Government of the Argentine Republic reasserts its legitimate right of sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of its national territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Buenos Aires, 20 May 2009

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 105 (j)
Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in section II, paragraph 27, of its resolution 1995 (XIX) provided that the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and that his appointment should be confirmed by the Assembly.

2. The Secretary-General proposes to extend the appointment of Supachai Panitchpakdi as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for another term of office of four years, beginning on 1 September 2009 and ending on 31 August 2013.

3. The Secretary-General expresses the hope that the General Assembly will confirm this appointment.

09-38315 (E) 260609

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 17
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/18, as well as Security Council resolution 1868 (2009), in which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) until 23 March 2010. In its resolution, the Security Council requested a report on developments in Afghanistan every three months. This report reviews the situation in Afghanistan and the activities of UNAMA since my report of 10 March 2009 (A/63/751-S/2009/135) and focuses on key developments over the reporting period.

II. Overview

2. In a strong political manifestation of support for Afghanistan, over 80 countries and organizations met in The Hague on 31 March, at the "International Conference on Afghanistan: a Comprehensive Strategy in a Regional Context" hosted by the Government of the Netherlands and co-chaired by the United Nations, Afghanistan and the Netherlands. I was pleased to attend personally, along with President Hamid Karzai and Prime Minister Jan Balkenende. The Conference called for greater efforts and clearer direction in addressing the challenges of Afghanistan. The priorities agreed at the International Conference in support of Afghanistan, held in Paris in June 2008, were reaffirmed. Statements made at the Conference demonstrated consensus on a more prioritized agenda for Afghanistan. In particular, it was agreed that well-funded and effective civilian capacity- and institution-building programmes were as important as capacity-building programmes in the security sector and had to be given priority attention in a more focused strategy. The Chairmen's Statement presented four priority areas: strengthened security, improved

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economic growth, good governance and enhanced regional cooperation, with detailed recommendations for each area.

3. The Conference emphasized the central role of UNAMA to coordinate international action and assistance in support of the Government of Afghanistan, as also reiterated by the Security Council in its resolution 1868 (2009) in March. In line with that resolution, which calls for the strengthened and expanded presence of UNAMA in the country, and to meet the expectations expressed at the Conference held in The Hague, the Mission is seeking to expand its presence into as many provinces as possible and to step up its efforts to coordinate international action and assistance. In May, UNAMA opened two new offices, in Tirin Kot and Sari Pul. Additional offices will be opened over the coming months.

4. Preparations for the 20 August elections accelerated during the reporting period. Following the voter registration update, the candidate nomination process was completed and the final list of candidates was published on schedule. Opposition candidates voiced concerns about the levelness of the electoral playing field. The Mission has worked with relevant Afghan institutions and with the international community to address these concerns. Gradually, human rights aspects of the election process are requiring greater attention.

5. The reporting period has seen continued progress in key areas, such as the expansion of the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, as well as in the areas of agriculture, private sector development and capacity-building. Donor coordination has improved, including through a more effective use of the Joint Coordination Monitoring Board, co-chaired by UNAMA and the Government of Afghanistan.

6. The security situation has continued to deteriorate. While there has been improvement in some areas, notably in Kabul and its neighbouring provinces, the number of security incidents and the overall level of violence increased compared with the same months of last year.

III. Elections

7. The upcoming presidential and provincial council elections have been at the centre of attention in both the Afghan political establishment and the international community. The Independent Election Commission successfully adhered to its election timetable, despite political controversy and technical challenges. As mentioned in my previous report (A/63/751-S/2009/135), the voter registration update was completed without serious security incidents. In order to reach voters who were unable to register during this period, voter registration is being continued through the use of mobile teams in selected areas. According to the Commission, only nine of the 796 voter registration centres were unable to open owing to insecurity, though some had to be relocated to nearby districts. Approximately 4.5 million voters were registered during the registration update, 38 per cent of whom were women. Some irregularities, leading to possible multiple registrations, were reported during the registration process. The Commission is working with the United Nations Development Programme Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (UNDP-ELECT) project, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other experts to mitigate the effect of these irregularities on polling day. Indelible ink, which is currently being tested in Kabul,

will be applied to the fingers of all those who have cast their vote to prevent multiple voting.

8. The candidate nomination process was successfully held between 25 April and 8 May. On 16 May, in accordance with the established schedule, the Independent Election Commission announced the preliminary list of 44 presidential and 3,324 provincial council candidates. In response to the initially low numbers of female candidates for provincial council seats, civil society groups and UNAMA made successful efforts to encourage women to register. When the nomination period closed, 341 women had registered as provincial council candidates. Of these, 13 have withdrawn their candidacy and 328 will run in the elections. This is 81 more women than in 2005. The nomination phase was followed by evaluations of candidate applications to ensure that they met the legal criteria, including vetting against links to illegal armed groups (see para. 14 below). The names of candidates disqualified or who withdrew their nominations during this period will not appear on the final ballot paper. The final list of candidates was released on 13 June, and includes 41 presidential candidates and 3,178 provincial council candidates. The election campaign period began on 16 June.

9. Controversies that dominated the political debate in early 2009 have been resolved. My Special Representative played an important role in this respect, holding extensive discussions with and promoting efforts to find common ground between Afghan authorities and political leaders as well as with the international community. The first such controversy related to the date of the elections. Following a request by President Karzai to hold elections before 22 May, in accordance with article 61 of the Constitution of Afghanistan, the Independent Election Commission reaffirmed its decision to hold elections on 20 August, mainly for operational reasons. This decision was then widely accepted by the President, the opposition and the international community.

10. The second related to the powers of the President after 22 May, when the Presidential term expired, in accordance with article 61 of the Constitution. In its opinion issued on 29 March, the Supreme Court ruled that President Karzai could remain in office with full powers after 22 May and until a new Presidential term began. The intense debate on this issue subsequently came to an end.

11. Opposition leaders strongly emphasized the importance of establishing a level playing field during the election campaign. They expressed doubts with regard to the ability of Afghan institutions to provide an environment conducive to credible elections. UNAMA is contributing to the efforts being made to address these concerns, as reflected in both the technical support for the election process and the political role the United Nations and the international community play in shaping the election environment.

12. The UNDP-ELECT project continued its close cooperation with the Independent Election Commission. The technical support provided included all aspects of the operational plan, logistical support, training, capacity-building and fund-raising to ensure donor financing for the electoral process, which has now entered the critical stage of procurement, distribution and preparations for the election campaign.

13. UNAMA initiated an extensive dialogue with candidates and with civil society to promote a credible election process. The Mission undertook a Verification of

Political Rights campaign in partnership with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. The project focuses on four human rights (freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly and movement) and three fundamental principles (non-intimidation, non-partiality and non-discrimination). It will monitor all phases of the electoral process and make appropriate recommendations to the authorities. Special attention will be paid to factors constraining the ability of women to fully exercise their political rights. Public reports will be issued on the findings of this exercise. My Special Representative issued a set of essential guidelines applicable to conduct during the electoral process, summarizing existing Afghan regulations and international best practices and reminding candidates, their officials, agents, party members and supporters, as well as election staff, media and international representatives of their responsibilities to ensure an orderly election process.

14. The Electoral Complaints Commission was appointed and is establishing itself in the provinces. Three of the five Commissioners are international electoral or legal experts appointed by my Special Representative. The Commission has considered challenges to the eligibility of candidates and will continue to review and adjudicate complaints related to electoral offences. On 9 June, the Commission announced that 57 candidates, including two presidential contenders, were disqualified from running in the elections for not meeting the eligibility criteria. The Media Commission, established by the Independent Election Commission in May and composed of five Afghan Commissioners, is responsible for monitoring media reporting and coverage of the electoral campaign and addressing complaints.

15. President Karzai issued a decree on the non-interference of State officials in the electoral process in 2009, prohibiting any interference by Government institutions or officials in the election process. My Special Representative is engaged in a continuing dialogue with the President and other relevant members of the Government to ensure compliance with this decree.

16. The Joint Security Planning Group was established to streamline electoral security planning among the Afghan National Security Forces, the Independent Election Commission, the International Security Assistance Force, the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and the United Nations. The Planning Group is now addressing candidate security, movement planning for the distribution of election material and the establishment of provincial operations command centres, as well as conducting ongoing security assessments for proposed polling site locations.

17. The European Union has decided to send an election observation mission and the OSCE an election support team. My Special Representative urged both organizations to increase the level and scope of their participation. The Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan is planning to deploy close to 8,000 domestic observers throughout the country, covering about 70 per cent of the polling stations. Candidates are encouraged to register candidate agents, who will follow the electoral process. The presence of domestic and international observers can play an important role in enhancing the integrity and credibility of the electoral process. UNAMA is co-hosting an election observation working group, which will provide guidance and facilitate international and domestic observation.

IV. Security

18. The overall number of security incidents continued to rise during the reporting period, with May figures exceeding 1,000 for the first time since 2001. This year saw a 43 per cent increase in the monthly average number of security incidents, 740 of which rose from 519 in the first four months of 2008 to 740 during the same period in 2009. The rise in incident levels is due to increased fighting in traditional conflict areas in the south and east. Insurgent activities in previously stable areas, particularly in the north, also expanded. Over the past four months, there has been an increase in foreign fighters, most likely affiliated with Al-Qaida, engaged alongside the Taliban.

19. Amid this extremely complex reality, some progress has been achieved in key parts of the country. Coordination between the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police and the National Directorate of Security improved, resulting in a sharp decrease in security incidents in Kabul and the surrounding provinces, such as Wardak and Logar. Terrorist attacks have been thwarted. Around Kabul, additional international forces have been deployed, along with newly recruited Afghan forces. In addition, the number of incidents in Herat has decreased.

20. The free movement of unarmed civil servants continues to be adversely affected by the intensified fighting and the increased campaign of intimidation and assassination. The deliberate targeting of government officials and employees, religious scholars, civilian contractors of the Government and the aid community continued. Compared with the first four months of 2008, this reporting period has been marked by an increase in assassinations, abductions, incidents of intimidation and the direct targeting of aid workers, including United Nations national staff. The number of aid workers killed dropped sharply, however, with only one such case reported during the reporting period.

21. The number of complex and sophisticated attacks increased in the first four months of 2009 compared with the same period in 2008. Attacks were recently carried out on the Provincial Council and the Governor's compound in Kandahar in two separate incidents in April and the Khost Governor's compound and police headquarters in May. The deterioration of security in and around Kandahar city is of great concern. Security incidents reported within the city itself and the Daman district, where the airport is located, increased by 80 per cent compared with 2008. This includes a very sharp increase in incidents involving improvised explosive devices reported in the city. The Minister of the Interior has made the reform of the Kandahar police a priority, and is working to increase the number of officers by the end of July.

22. The United Nations has also been attacked. A UNAMA national staff member sustained serious injuries in the attack on the Kandahar Provincial Council. On 3 February, a United Nations convoy was ambushed north of Herat, and on 5 May, an improvised explosive device was detonated against a marked United Nations armoured vehicle in the city of Tirin Kot in the province of Uruzgan, fortunately not resulting in any casualties. On 8 June, a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations compound was attacked in Kunduz, injuring two guards. The United Nations may not have been the intended target of these attacks.

23. The next period will likely experience an increase in the level of violence compared with the same period last year, including complex suicide attacks,

intimidation and assassinations carried out by insurgents. The significant increase in Afghan and international troops fighting the insurgents could also result in an increase in security incidents.

24. In coordination with the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and the International Security Assistance Force, UNAMA continued to pilot an integrated approach in the five districts identified as critical for immediate action. The Mission considers this approach to be a potentially significant contribution to stability in Afghanistan. It will be viable only if the Assistance Force and government authorities, in particular the Independent Directorate, provide equally dedicated support.

V. Afghanistan National Development Strategy and donor coordination efforts

25. Following the Paris Conference, UNAMA identified, in consultation with the Government and donors, five sectors that would be essential for Afghanistan's long-term economic growth, but have received insufficient attention from donors. These are: agriculture, energy, private-sector development, capacity-building and higher education and vocational training.

26. During the reporting period, encouraging progress was made in some of these priority areas, also reaffirmed at the Conference held in The Hague. The Joint Coordination Monitoring Board took important decisions at its eleventh meeting, held on 19 April and co-chaired by my Special Representative and Senior Minister Amin Arsala, concerning a new national agriculture strategy, police reform, and private-sector development. The meeting of the Board was preceded by meetings of the Board's Standing Committees, which had flagged these issues as being critical for the Board's attention.

27. The new National Agriculture Development Framework was developed under the leadership of the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, with support from the United Nations and the World Bank, to increase agricultural production, stimulate market development and create employment. The Minister presented five immediate priorities, which included the purchase of wheat seed for the next planting season, land leasing and access to credit. Also of particular importance is the new Comprehensive Agricultural and Rural Development Facility, which aims to reduce the threat of poppy production by increasing incentives for the cultivation of licit crops. Following the decision of the Joint Coordination Monitoring Board to endorse the overall programme and priorities, the Ministry is now conducting a gap assessment to stimulate and guide donor activities. UNAMA maintains a constant dialogue with the Ministry in an effort to bring donors together effectively in support of strong Afghan leadership.

28. The process of reforming and strengthening the Afghan National Police continued during the reporting period. The Ministry of the Interior is now taking serious steps to fight corruption, enhance administrative accountability and improve leadership and merit-based appointments. According to the Ministry, over 100 police officers were dismissed and many are under prosecution. Specialized teams were formed to assist the Ministry in building human resources management systems for the police. A social monitoring mechanism is being prepared, which

would allow elected bodies and civil society to play an oversight role of police performance at the local level.

29. The current challenges facing the Afghan National Police can be met only by increasing its size and improving training, mentoring and equipment. Following consultations between the Government and donors, the Joint Coordination Monitoring Board agreed on an interim increase of 4,800 police personnel for Kabul City. Furthermore, a second interim increase of 5,000 to 10,000 police personnel, for deployment in vulnerable provinces, was approved. The detailed plan to implement these decisions is being developed under the auspices of the International Police Coordination Board. It is critical that the increase in numbers is accompanied by further institutional reforms, in particular strengthened anti-corruption measures and improved selection and training procedures. This will require comprehensive support from the international community. A decision on the future size of the National Police Force is expected to be taken following the conclusion of a review conducted by the European Commission and supported by UNAMA. The review will focus on the precise needs of the Force and its numbers, specialization and geographical distribution.

30. Encouraging progress has also been made in private-sector development. At the meeting of the Joint Coordination Monitoring Board, the Minister of Commerce and Industry presented five priorities, ranging from transit-trade facilitation to licensing reform, investment promotion and value added processing. These priorities were supported by donors. The Board encouraged the Minister to present projects for funding as soon as possible.

31. In the area of capacity-building, standardization of a set of "common functions" — accounting, procurement, human resources, policy development and project management — in Government ministries was identified as the most pressing need. The Afghanistan Civil Service Institute, with support from donors, drafted a concept paper, which is now being developed into a project proposal. This work should also be coordinated with new efforts under the "civilian surge" (see below) in order to avoid duplication and the creation of competing, parallel structures.

32. With regard to higher and vocational education, UNAMA initiated work with the Ministries of Education, Higher Education, and Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled to identify gaps and imbalances that affect the entire educational system. Today, access to higher education and in particular to vocational education is severely limited, which, unless corrected, will have a serious negative impact on educational opportunities and economic growth. UNAMA intends to present a gap assessment together with the relevant Ministries.

33. During the reporting period, there was an increasingly constructive debate about donor coordination and aid effectiveness. The Minister of Finance, with UNAMA support, repeatedly emphasized the importance of aligning donor efforts behind the priorities stated in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Final Declaration of the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan. The Minister appealed for adequate resources to meet priorities that are currently underfunded, such as agriculture and infrastructure. In order to ensure better coordination, several new mechanisms were established, including a peer review mechanism, which will allow the Government, UNAMA and donors to ensure coherence in resource allocation. This mechanism will oblige donors to present new

projects for review in order to improve synergies, avoid duplication and address shortcomings. The mechanism was launched at the Ministry of Public Health in early May and was introduced at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock later that month.

34. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy assumes that between 2008 and 2013, over 75 per cent of Afghanistan's budget will be financed by donors. This situation is unsustainable and illustrates the need for the Government to boost its own revenue collection. It is encouraging to note that the Ministry of Finance improved revenue collection, which in fiscal year 1387 (March 2008-March 2009) met stated targets for the first time.

35. On 10 June, UNAMA also launched a local procurement campaign with members of the Government, donors and a number of Afghan private-sector suppliers. This campaign is intended to encourage the international community to buy Afghan products and reduce reliance on more expensive imports, thereby creating employment in Afghanistan, stimulating economic growth and increasing revenue collection.

36. The Development Assistance Database in the Ministry of Finance is set up to receive information from donors about their development-related activities in all parts of the country. It is an essential tool to monitor, redirect and coordinate the total flow of resources. Currently, the database is being improved to better serve the needs of donors, the Government and UNAMA. Although UNAMA estimates that expenditures of between $700 million and $1 billion are still spent without being reported appropriately, there is growing awareness of the critical importance of proper reporting in order for aid effectiveness and coordination efforts to succeed.

37. The United Nations development assistance framework for Afghanistan was co-signed by the Minister of Economy and the United Nations Resident Coordinator on 28 May, following a consultation process with Government counterparts, donors and civil society organizations. The document sets the road map for the intervention of the United Nations system in Afghanistan from 2010 to 2013. Three priority sectors were identified: (a) governance, (b) sustainable livelihoods and (c) basic services. The Framework contains an important innovation: the creation of a "common fund" for projects that are jointly implemented by at least two United Nations agencies, funds or programmes, in one of six provinces identified as underserved. With donor support, it could contribute to addressing the significant imbalance in assistance provided to more stable but underserved provinces compared with unstable provinces.

38. The Conference in The Hague was the first international meeting after the presentation by the United States of America of its strategic review for Afghanistan and Pakistan. The review was well-received by Conference participants, who accorded particular praise for the proposed increase in civilian experts to support the Government of Afghanistan and build Afghan expertise at the national and subnational levels.

39. The United Nations also welcomed this proposed "civilian surge", which responds to the repeated calls for a massive institution-building programme by my Special Representative. Following the Conference in The Hague, a comprehensive plan was produced by the Government of Afghanistan in record time, laying out specific needs in terms of types of skills required and geographical priorities. The

plan emphasized that any "civilian surge" must be based on Afghan ownership, so that assistance fits into Afghan structures and priorities, creating a lasting expansion of Government presence and not merely a temporary expansion of foreign presence. Any increase in foreign civilian expertise must be demand-driven and result in sustainable capacity development, and its effectiveness must be measurable and monitored. The Government's plan and a letter from UNAMA describing available mechanisms for the rapid and effective deployment of civilian experts were shared with the international community. The Government is now developing a priority plan and mechanisms to implement the "civilian surge". UNAMA will continue to cooperate closely with the Government in this regard.

VI. Governance

40. A number of governance-related developments have been addressed above. Progress has also been made in the Government's overall work to fight corruption. Following the Government's endorsement of the anti-corruption strategy prepared by the Chief Justice, a specialized anti-corruption unit consisting of 15 prosecutors began work in the Office of the Attorney-General on 1 April. The United Nations is assisting the unit in developing internal guidelines for its operations. The High Office of Oversight for the Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy recently created to coordinate the Government's anti-corruption effort and supported by the United Nations, is developing anti-corruption action plans with the Ministries of the Interior and Finance. Both Ministries have taken disciplinary and legal actions against corrupt officials. At the same time, the Government requested all its senior officials to declare their assets and sources of income. The High Office will maintain a database of this information. Officials who cannot account for their sources of income will face an investigation.

41. Despite these positive measures, the institutional framework, and in particular the legislative framework, for managing corruption cases is incomplete. Donors have requested UNAMA to lead their efforts to support the High Office in revising the anti-corruption law.

VII. Regional cooperation

42. Increased attention has been turned to regional cooperation as an indispensable component of resolving the conflict and generating economic growth in Afghanistan. Several conferences devoted to regional cooperation took place over the past six months, including in Paris, Brussels, Tehran and Islamabad. On 27 March, I attended the Special Conference on Afghanistan in Moscow, convened under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. During the Conference, member States of the Cooperation Organization issued a statement and adopted a plan of action stressing the importance of concerted efforts in the region to counter terrorism, illicit narcotics and organized crime. Another conference on regional issues will take place in Trieste, Italy on 26 and 27 June under the auspices of the Group of Eight.

43. Further progress has been made in the bilateral dialogue between Afghanistan and Pakistan. A number of meetings have taken place between the two Presidents and key ministers, including in Ankara on 1 April and in Washington, D.C., on

6 May. Development, trade, agriculture, military and intelligence issues were discussed in bilateral and trilateral formats. Encouraged by constructive talks in Washington, D.C., Afghanistan and Pakistan committed to sign a transit trade agreement no later than 31 December 2009.

44. The Presidents of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan met in Tehran on 24 May, following a meeting of their Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Kabul on 27 April. The three Presidents adopted a declaration in which they confirmed their commitment to join efforts in the fight against terrorism, support trilateral economic projects and counter the production and trafficking of narcotics.

45. As mentioned in my previous report, donors attending a meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on Afghanistan hosted by France in December 2008, agreed to identify specific and concrete regional projects to stimulate Afghanistan's economic development. These projects were presented to the Third Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan in Islamabad in May 2009. UNAMA, working closely with the European Commission, played a leading role in identifying projects and donors to fund them. The Final Declaration of the Conference lists specific projects and responsible donors. This demonstrated the international community's resolve to address the issue of regional coordination for Afghanistan. One of the agreed projects was the creation of a secretariat in the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to follow up on all regional initiatives, which reflects the recognition that the numerous regional cooperation initiatives that have emerged over the past several months must be developed in a coordinated manner.

VIII. Human rights

46. In addition to the election-related human rights activities mentioned above, UNAMA assisted Afghan journalist unions and media organizations in developing a plan to improve access to information and ensure justice and accountability in cases of attacks and killings of journalists and civil society actors. The Kabul Declaration on Freedom of Expression in Afghanistan, adopted on 30 March, constitutes an agenda for collective action to promote and protect freedom of expression in Afghanistan.

47. A major human rights issue during the review period was the Shia Personal Status Law, signed by the President in March 2009. The law contained provisions potentially endorsing discriminatory practices against women, which ran counter to the basic human rights principles that the Government of Afghanistan had adopted. These include the tacit acceptance of child marriage, the granting of guardianship of children to fathers and paternal grandfathers, the duty of the wife to submit to her husband's sexual demands, and the requirement that a wife cannot leave her home without her husband's permission. Following national and international expressions of concern, including by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President requested a review of the law.

48. UNAMA recorded 800 civilian casualties between January and May 2009, mostly in the south, south-east and eastern regions of the country. This represents an increase of 24 per cent over the same period in 2008, when 646 civilians were killed. According to UNAMA figures, 55 per cent of these deaths were caused by anti-Government elements and 33 per cent by international and Afghan forces (the remaining 12 per cent could not be attributed to any of the parties to the conflict).

The use of improvised explosive devices by the insurgency, which by their nature are indiscriminate, increased during the reporting period.

49. It should be reiterated that most civilian casualties stem from the activities of the Taliban and terrorist groups, deliberately targeting civilians. On the other hand, international forces issued tactical directives and other measures to minimize the impact of operations on non-combatants. Nevertheless, civilian casualties attributed to pro-Government forces continue to be reported at similar levels as for the same period in 2008, with air strikes being the single largest cause. Air strikes on 4 May 2009 in Bala Baluk district, Farah province, caused significant loss of civilian life, including many women and children. This incident once again called into question the continued use of air strikes in populated areas, given the inherent risk they pose to civilian life.

IX. Humanitarian situation

50. Despite heavy snowfall in the north-east and the Central Highlands, which caused avalanches, landslides and road blockages, this past winter was comparatively mild. The few humanitarian interventions that were required enjoyed good coordination on the ground between the United Nations, the Government of Afghanistan, non-governmental organizations and other partners. In accordance with the policy note on Coordination and Intervention in Humanitarian Assistance, endorsed in January 2009, provincial reconstruction teams assisted with logistics as a last resort at the request of the local authorities.

51. The coordination structure established to manage the winter response was put to the test in mid-April, when two earthquakes struck the Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan, killing 22, wounding 59 and leaving 650 families homeless. Local authorities, the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority, the United Nations and the Ministry of Public Health provided emergency assistance.

52. Over the reporting period, heavy rains and flash floods have destroyed houses and property across many regions, inundating more than 17,000 acres of farmland, killing over 10,000 head of livestock and destroying bridges and roads. United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners have worked closely with local authorities to provide assistance to the affected population.

X. Observations

53. **The first six months of 2009 have witnessed the beginnings of three interlinked strategic shifts in Afghanistan. The first shift involves an increased emphasis on civilian efforts, which is a manifestation on the ground of what has been agreed in conference halls: that military means alone will not lead to success in Afghanistan. The second shift is a new focus on subnational governance and service delivery, predicated on the recognition that insecurity feeds on weak governance and the disillusionment of the population. The final strategic shift is the alignment of international efforts behind well-conceived Government programmes in key sectors — in other words, the essence of the aid effectiveness agenda.**

54. These are all developments of great significance. If the positive trends described in the present report can be sustained, then there is a possibility for a major improvement in the situation in Afghanistan.

55. These encouraging developments coincide with a difficult overall political and security situation. The election campaign period has now begun and will absorb political energy and attention. Furthermore, Afghanistan is currently in what may well be its most intense fighting season since 2001. Thus, it will be challenging to maintain the positive momentum gained in a number of critical sectors. If that momentum is lost, the country will at best lose valuable time and at worst experience new disappointments and setbacks, leading to further disillusionment in the Afghan public and the international community.

56. Therefore, I appeal to all members of the international community to put their full weight behind the positive developments in order to maintain momentum through the complex period ahead. This means giving urgent and strong support to the effective national programmes being presented in key sectors. This backing will not only have significant effects in long-neglected key sectors, but it will also set examples for other important areas, such as long-standing concerns relating to corruption and crime, poppy production and food insecurity. Ultimately, it will make a substantial contribution to the goal of achieving lasting stability. The Government of Afghanistan, in turn, must do its utmost to continue this work, building on the momentum created in the period leading up to the elections.

57. This summer will also see an increase in the number of international forces in Afghanistan. Such additional forces are required, not only to contribute to security for the elections, but also to further accelerate the strengthening of the Afghan National Army. Additional international forces will mean a more intense fight against the insurgency. It is critical that this fight be conducted in a way that weakens the terrorist threat and boosts popular support. I am profoundly concerned about the risk posed by an increase in civilian casualties and by a type of military conduct that alienates the population from the international community. More than ever, we need the solid and continued support of the Afghan people for the presence of the international community in Afghanistan, both civilian and military.

58. I welcome the deployment of additional troops. However, every effort must be made to avoid a situation where more troops and more fighting lead to more civilian casualties and behaviour that offends the population. Special forces operations must be urgently reviewed and efforts made to "Afghanize" these operations. Also urgent is the need to review the use of air power in populated areas. These reviews should consider all options and their possible implications. Furthermore, I urge military authorities to provide adequate and ongoing training of military personnel to avoid, to the extent possible, practices that lead to the loss of civilian life and the alienation of the population, which would overshadow any positive trends.

59. It is of critical importance that the international civilian and military presence maintains its broad multinational character. Today, we see the results of that presence. The progress described in the present report is attributable to competent Afghan ministers and officials, but would not have been possible without a broad international presence on the ground. To maintain momentum,

we must also maintain our broad presence. Now is not the time to scale back, but to further our efforts in a coordinated way that benefits the entire country.

60. For UNAMA to fulfil the central role assigned to it by the Security Council and reaffirmed at the Conference in The Hague, it must be given adequate resources to address the strategic shifts referred to above. Participants at The Hague called for a further expansion of the Mission's presence, in line with Council resolution 1868 (2009). This call recognizes the value of the Mission's regional and provincial offices, which can support the "civilian surge", promote reform efforts and promising national programmes and priorities, and continue to work with local government, civil society and other actors to advance the subnational agenda. UNAMA has eight regional offices and 12 provincial offices, including two new offices opened in May, and budgetary resources for three additional offices scheduled to be opened soon. To have a presence in each province in Afghanistan, UNAMA would need additional resources, including for security when necessary, to establish 11 more offices.

61. The present report has given some examples of UNAMA's strengthened role in aid coordination, a role that aims to catalyse Afghan and international partners so that donor decisions in each sector are made on the basis of technically sound and Afghan-owned sectoral strategies. In order to continue identifying gaps and to encourage the Government and donors to fill those gaps, UNAMA will need to further strengthen its aid coordination capacity in 2010.

62. UNAMA has made an extraordinary effort to use the additional resources made available to the Mission in its 2009 budget as efficiently and expeditiously as possible, including through an intense and successful recruitment campaign. I have recently appointed two new Deputy Special Representatives to ensure UNAMA's continued united efforts under the overall guidance of my Special Representative. To secure the gains made in 2009, and to meet the expectations placed on the United Nations by donors and Afghans alike, it is my strong conviction that the Mission will need to be strengthened even further in 2010. In fact, even before submission of the 2010 budget, it is clear that increased resources, including additional funds, are necessary. Practical ways are being explored to respond to the three strategic shifts by identifying the key elements that must be addressed immediately.

63. In its resolution 1868 (2009), the Security Council requested that benchmarks be developed to measure progress in the implementation of UNAMA's mandates and priorities. However, given the focused attention on preparing for the elections and on the Conference at The Hague, it has proved impossible to complete the inclusive and meaningful consultations needed to fully conduct this exercise. I therefore propose to include a finalized set of benchmarks in my next report, due in September 2009.

64. It is currently envisaged that the benchmarks, indicators of progress and metrics would focus on broad areas reflecting the goals of the agreed national strategies and drawing on UNAMA's mandate as formulated in Security Council resolution 1868 (2009). These include institution-building, security, economic and social development, as well as cross-cutting issues that heavily influence progress in the other areas. It is envisaged that the benchmarks will

be results-based and, in general, not tied to target dates. In formulating the benchmarks, it is noted that, although in some areas UNAMA has the capacity to monitor progress, the responsibility to actually make that progress rests or is shared with Afghan and/or international counterparts.

65. As mentioned above, the finalization of this exercise depends, first and foremost, on ensuring an appropriate consultation process with the Government of Afghanistan and international stakeholders. Such a consultation process has begun. I am grateful that several members of the international community have informed UNAMA of their readiness to contribute to this process. I encourage the Government and the international community to support UNAMA in this endeavour.

66. I would like to thank my Special Representative, Kai Eide, for his determined efforts and dedication and express my gratitude to all the women and men of UNAMA for their tireless work under difficult circumstances. I also thank the Mission's partners, including the United Nations country team, Member States and the International Security Assistance Force, as well as humanitarian and other international partners, for the staunch support that they continue to lend to UNAMA.

United Nations A/63/893

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 48
Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference

Letter dated 4 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a document in Arabic and English containing the Damascus Declaration on responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region. The Damascus Declaration was adopted at the end of the Regional High-Level Consultative Forum on the Impacts of the International Financial Crisis on the ESCWA Member Countries: the Way Forward, which was held in Damascus from 5 to 7 May 2009. The Forum was co-organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the International Labour Organization and the Syrian Government.

The Damascus Declaration supports the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, which will be held in New York from 24 to 26 June 2009. Due to the importance of the Damascus Declaration being among the background documents of the forthcoming Conference, I should appreciate it if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item number 48.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic and English]

Damascus Declaration on responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region 7th May 2009

The Regional High-Level Consultative Forum on the Impacts of the International Financial Crisis on the ESCWA Member Countries: the Way Forward, held in Damascus on 5-7 May 2009 (the "Forum"),

Having discussed the impact of the International Financial and Economic Crisis (the "Crisis") on the ESCWA member countries,

Having also debated the national, regional and international responses to the Crisis and exchanged views and experiences of experts, representatives of ESCWA member countries, regional and international organizations,

The Forum hereby adopts this declaration.

A. The Forum requests the ESCWA member countries to undertake the following steps, activities, policies and/or strategies to respond more effectively to the Crisis,

1- Take active measures to offset the repercussions of the Crisis on their real economies and in particular to mitigate its impacts on economic growth, development and employment. These measures will generally differ from one country to another depending on whether it is oil exporting, having more diversified economy, least developing or under occupation.

2- Adopt sustainable expansionary fiscal policy to boost domestic demand and shorten the period of low economic growth. Fiscal stimuli in ESCWA member countries should meet key development goals and be coordinated and implemented in cooperation with the private sector and the civil society. The policy should be primarily targeted towards infrastructure, agriculture, industry, health, education, environment and social protection mechanisms.

3- Take measures to ensure more cooperation with and support to the private sector, particularly in the real economy with a special focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and in the banking sector in those member countries facing capital reversals and liquidity crises.

4- Encourage the existing national, regional and international funds to provide liquidity to those member countries facing liquidity crises. The region needs these funds to strengthen the response to the Crisis with measures that provide long term financing for low and medium income countries in the region to enable them to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

5- Enhance the efficiency of their regulatory frameworks in the financial sector to better serve the real economy.

6- Promote greater regional integration, particularly in monetary and financial affairs, and coordinate their stimulus policies in order to improve their effectiveness in responding to the Crisis.

7- Encourage ESCWA's Sovereign Wealth Funds to increase their investment in the real economy in the region particularly in those member countries with comparative advantage in agriculture and industry.

8- Pursue diversification vigorously to reduce heavy dependency on oil sector, by diversifying exports, investing in technology and infrastructure, thus expanding employment opportunities.

9- Facilitate intra-regional flows of trade in goods and services, people and capital among ESCWA member countries to enhance their regional integration.

10- Promote South-South cooperation as part of the promotion of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

11- Strengthen employment and social protection policies in the interest of ensuring decent work for all, including employment services, active labour market policies, unemployment insurance, sustainable and adequate pension policies, and complementary cash transfer programmes.

12- Support the forthcoming UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, including the architecture of the international financial system, which will be held in New York from 24 to 26 June 2009. This support can be accomplished by providing inputs related to the needs of the region, and participating actively in the Conference at the highest level.

13- Take proactive steps towards ensuring a more active participation of developing countries, including ESCWA member countries, in managing the global economy. The current Crisis has proved the need for reform, particularly a more representative, legitimate and hence effective management of the global economy, and that this cannot be achieved without the active participation of developing countries in global economic decision making mechanisms.

B. The Forum supports ESCWA's activities and requests the Secretariat to undertake the following steps, activities, policies and/or strategies to assist member countries to respond more effectively to the Crisis:

14- Strengthen and enhance ESCWA's active role in representing the particular needs of the region in coping with the Crisis as well as in the deliberations of the Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reform of the International Monetary and Financial System.

15- Undertake technical cooperation and capacity building activities (e.g., seminars, workshops, technical missions, etc.) to assist member countries in achieving national as well as regional coherence in negotiation positions on matters of strategic importance, such as this Crisis, by bringing together the concerned entities within each country (e.g., Ministries of foreign affairs, trade, finance, economy, etc.) in such activities.

16- Play a catalyst role in bringing the member countries together with the concerned Arab and Islamic financial institutions in order to enhance the role of such institutions in solving the problems arising from and/or exacerbated by the Crisis.

17- Submit this declaration to the ESCWA Members and to the President of the UN General Assembly to include it among the background documents of the forthcoming UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development to be held in New York from 24 to 26 June 2009.

United Nations A/63/894

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Sixty-third session
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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 42nd, 45th, 48th, 52nd and 55th meetings, on 13, 18 and 26 May and 4 and 25 June 2009. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.42, 45, 48, 52 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Cross-cutting issues

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on peacekeeping best practices (A/62/593 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/727);

(c) Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on conduct and discipline, including full justification of all posts (A/62/758);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on national professional officers (A/62/762);

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(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the cases for death and disability for formed police units, military contingents, civilian police officers and military observers processed and currently in process and comprehensive review of the administrative and payment arrangement for such cases (A/62/805 and Corr.1);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive review of the compensation of death and disability benefits to military contingents, formed police units, military observers and civilian police officers (A/63/550);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the welfare and recreation needs of all categories of personnel and detailed implications (A/63/675 and Corr.1);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of training in peacekeeping (A/63/680);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 and budget for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/696);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/63/720);

(k) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/62/781);

(l) Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007 (A/62/281 (Part II));

(m) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services: peacekeeping operations (A/63/302 (Part II));

(n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007 (A/62/281 (Part II)/Add.1);

(o) Note by the Secretary-General on the comprehensive report on training in peacekeeping (A/62/676);

Reimbursement to troop-contributing countries

(p) Updated report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methodology for rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries (A/63/697);

(q) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/746);

Support account for peacekeeping operations

(r) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/698 and Add.1);

(s) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations (A/63/702 and Corr.1);

(t) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/767 and Corr.1);

(u) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/841);

(v) Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the budget for the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/703);

(w) Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on vacant posts in the Office of Internal Oversight (A/63/737);

(x) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the Secretariat's structure for managing and sustaining peacekeeping operations (A/63/837);

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

(y) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/626);

(z) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/824 and Corr.1);

(aa) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/746/Add.17);

Closed peacekeeping missions

(bb) Report of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2008 (A/63/581);

(cc) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/856);

Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment

(dd) Letter dated 22 February 2008 from the Chairman of the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/63/18);

Budgetary levels for peacekeeping operations

(ee) Note by the Secretary-General on the approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/C.5/63/21);

(ff) Note by the Secretary-General on the approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/C.5/63/23);

(gg) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed budgetary levels for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/C.5/63/24);

(hh) Note by the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/63/25).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.50

4. At its 55th meeting, on 25 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries" (A/C.5/63/L.50), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Austria.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.50 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Guatemala made a statement.

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.51

7. At its 55th meeting, on 25 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy" (A/C.5/63/L.51), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Mexico.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.51 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.52

9. At its 55th meeting, on 25 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations" (A/C.5/63/L.52), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of South Africa.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.52 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution III).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) made a statement.

D. Oral draft decision

12. At its 55th meeting, on 25 June, the Chairman of the Committee presented an oral draft decision entitled "Closed peacekeeping missions" reached by consensus and coordinated by the representative of Singapore.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the oral draft decision without a vote (see para. 15).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

14. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/252 of 20 June 2008,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/274 of 14 June 2001 and 59/298 of 22 June 2005,

Having considered the updated report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methodology for rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the updated report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methodology for rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries;[1]

2. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in section IV.E of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

3. *Decides* that any equipment that is bought by a troop-contributing country in a foreign currency as well as any troop that is paid in a foreign currency may be reported in that currency;

4. *Also decides* to approve the increase in the payment of the recreational leave allowance from 7 to 15 days for members of the military contingents and formed police units.

[1] A/63/697.

[2] A/63/746, sect. IV.

Draft resolution II
Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

The General Assembly,

Recalling section XIV of its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 and its resolution 62/231 of 22 December 2007,

Recalling also its decision 50/500 of 17 September 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 62/251 of 20 June 2008,

Recalling further its resolution 56/292 of 27 June 2002 concerning the establishment of the strategic deployment stocks and its subsequent resolutions on the status of the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, the latest of which was resolution 62/251,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base,[1] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and the oral statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Reiterating the importance of establishing an accurate inventory of assets,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the facilities provided by the Government of Italy to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and the oral statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

3. *Recalls* paragraphs 9 and 13 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that indicators of achievement reflect more fully the scope of functions and services provided by the United Nations Logistics Base to peacekeeping operations and other field missions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take measures to expedite receipt and inspection procedures on strategic deployment stocks shipped from the United Nations Logistics Base and to report thereon in the context of the next budget submission;

5. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to submit proposals on a global support strategy for United Nations peacekeeping operations as referred to in paragraph 24 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that his proposals to be submitted to the General Assembly include thorough cost-benefit analysis;

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[1] A/63/626 and A/63/824 and Corr.1.

[2] A/63/746/Add.17.

[3] See A/C.5/63/SR.52.

6. *Recalls* paragraph 51 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides to relocate the Standing Police Capacity to the United Nations Logistics Base;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007, as well as other relevant resolutions;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

9. *Approves* the cost estimates for the United Nations Logistics Base amounting to 57,954,100 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;

Financing of the budget estimates

10. *Decides* that the requirements for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 shall be financed as follows:

(a) The unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 3,209,800 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008 to be applied against the resources required for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;

(b) The balance of 54,744,300 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;

(c) The estimated staff assessment income of 5,404,400 dollars, comprising the amount of 5,093,900 dollars for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and the increase of 310,500 dollars in respect of the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, to be offset against the balance referred to in subparagraph (b) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations;

11. *Also decides* to consider at its sixty-fourth session the question of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy.

[4] A/63/626.

Draft resolution III
Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 55/238 of 23 December 2000, 56/241 of 24 December 2001, 56/293 of 27 June 2002, 57/318 of 18 June 2003, 58/298 of 18 June 2004, 59/301 of 22 June 2005, 60/268 of 30 June 2006, 61/245 and 61/246 of 22 December 2006, 61/256 of 15 March 2007, 61/279 of 29 June 2007 and 62/250 of 20 June 2008, its decisions 48/489 of 8 July 1994, 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995 and its other relevant resolutions,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations[1] and on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations,[2] the reports of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the proposed budget for the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010[3] and on vacant posts in the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[4] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the Secretariat's structure for managing and sustaining peacekeeping operations[5] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations being able to respond and deploy rapidly to a peacekeeping operation upon adoption of a relevant resolution of the Security Council, within thirty days for traditional peacekeeping operations and ninety days for complex peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing also the need for adequate support during all phases of peacekeeping operations, including the liquidation and termination phases,

Mindful that the level of the support account should broadly correspond to the mandate, number, size and complexity of peacekeeping missions,

Attaching great importance to the provision of adequate resources for peacekeeping operations and their backstopping as well as for all priority activities of the Organization, in particular activities in the area of development, and underlining the need for genuine and meaningful partnership between the Security Council, the troop-contributing Governments and other Member States,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010[1] and on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations,[2] the reports of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the proposed budget for the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July

[1] A/63/698 and Add.1 and A/63/767 and Corr.1.
[2] A/63/702 and Corr.1.
[3] A/63/703.
[4] A/63/737.
[5] A/63/837.
[6] A/63/841.

2009 to 30 June 2010[3] and on vacant posts in the Office of Internal Oversight Services[4] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the Secretariat's structure for managing and sustaining peacekeeping operations;[5]

2. *Reaffirms* its role in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of human and financial resources and policies with a view to ensuring the full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;

3. *Also reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters;

4. *Further reaffirms* rule 153 of its rules of procedure;

5. *Reaffirms* that the support account funds shall be used for the sole purpose of financing human resources and non-human resource requirements for backstopping and supporting peacekeeping operations at Headquarters, and that any changes in this limitation require the prior approval of the General Assembly;

6. *Also reaffirms* the need for adequate funding for the backstopping of peacekeeping operations, as well as the need for full justification for that funding in support account budget submissions;

7. *Further reaffirms* the need for effective and efficient administration and financial management of peacekeeping operations, and urges the Secretary-General to continue to identify measures to increase the productivity and efficiency of the support account;

8. *Reiterates* that the delegation of authority on the part of the Secretary-General should be in order to facilitate the better management of the Organization, but stresses that the overall responsibility for management of the Organization rests with the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer;

9. *Affirms* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure that the delegation of authority to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and field missions is in strict compliance with relevant resolutions and decisions, as well as relevant rules and procedures of the General Assembly on this matter;

10. *Stresses* that heads of departments report to and are accountable to the Secretary-General;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when submitting his budget proposals, to include details of the full annual cost of posts for the subsequent budget;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007 and other relevant resolutions;

13. *Notes* that the overall benefits of the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support remain yet to be fully assessed, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to strengthen the capacity of the Organization to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations in the face of their surge in volume and complexity;

14. *Reiterates* that the Secretary-General should address systemic issues that hamper good management of the Organization, including by improving work processes and procedures, and, in that context, stresses that structural change is no substitute for managerial improvement;

15. *Stresses* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure a strategic and coherent vision when undertaking reform initiatives, and, in this context, emphasizes that any new proposal for reform should fully take into account ongoing and past management reforms;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of preserving the unity of command in missions at all levels, as well as a coherence in policy and strategy and clear command structures in the field and up to and including Headquarters;

17. *Also emphasizes* the importance of interaction and coordination with troop-contributing countries;

18. *Further emphasizes* the need to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel;

19. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[5] and urges the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of its recommendations;

20. *Also takes note* of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on vacant posts in the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[4] and requests the Secretary-General to fill the vacancies in the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in accordance with the existing relevant provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations and the provisions of the present resolution;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services to implement the recommendations of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 22 to 29 and 33 to 35 of its report;[3]

22. *Stresses* in this regard the importance for the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in its reports on investigations of fraud and corruption in the Organization, to make a clear differentiation and definition between the actual value of financial loss to the Organization, if any; other findings that may not have direct financial implication; and the total number and value of contracts investigated, in order to convey an accurate perception of the value of financial loss;

23. *Reiterates* the importance of strengthened accountability in the Organization and of ensuring greater accountability of the Secretary-General to Member States, inter alia, for the effective and efficient implementation of legislative mandates and the use of human and financial resources;

24. *Also reiterates* its regret for the delay in the response of the Secretary-General to its outstanding requests in its resolutions 59/288, 61/246, 61/276 and 62/269, and urges him as a matter of priority to submit a report on procurement governance and other issues, as requested in resolutions 61/246, 61/276 and 62/269, with full justification of the reasons for the delay;

25. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

26. *Notes* the observation of the Board of Auditors that there is no defined formula to show the relationship between the level and complexity of peacekeeping operations and the level of the support account, and, in this regard, emphasizes the need to develop a sound approach for determining the proposed support account staffing requirements, so that Member States can make fully informed decisions on resources;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the level of the support account on a regular basis, taking into consideration the number, size and complexity of peacekeeping operations;

28. *Takes note* of paragraph 45 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6] and requests the Secretary-General to include, in his rejustification of the totality of support account staffing requirements, inter alia, information and analysis on the following, taking into account the relevant legislative mandates:

(a) The lead agency, entity, department and/or offices for major strands of activity and the scope of their respective responsibilities;

(b) Comprehensive assessment of the evolution of the support account;

(c) Related human resources funded from the regular budget and other sources of funding, including in other departments of the United Nations Secretariat, resources in field missions and where relevant the specialized agencies and funds and programmes;

(d) Impact of the requested resources on the improvement to the administrative and financial management of peacekeeping operations;

(e) All functions covered by the proposed resources other than backstopping peacekeeping operations;

(f) The impact of information and communications technology initiatives, including related business process improvements, in enhancing productivity and on the level of resources requested;

(g) The outcome of business process improvements;

(h) Lessons learned from recent experience of operating the support account, including on the conversion of general temporary assistance positions;

29. *Recalls* section I, paragraph 6, of its resolution 55/238, paragraph 11 of its resolution 56/241, paragraph 19 of its resolution 61/279, and paragraph 22 of its resolution 62/250, and requests the Secretary-General to make further concrete efforts to ensure proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, taking into account their contribution to United Nations peacekeeping;

30. *Reiterates* section III, paragraph 10, of its resolution 63/250, and invites the Secretary-General, when appointing officials at the D-1 and D-2 levels in the Departments of the Secretariat that provide backstopping and/or policy guidance to field missions, to fully consider the relevant field experience of the candidates, as one of the highly desirable appointment criteria;

31. *Recalls* its resolution 63/280 of 8 May 2009 and decides to establish a security sector reform unit in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions;

32. *Also recalls* paragraph 17 of its resolution 60/268 and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to entrust to the Office of Internal Oversight Services the task of refining the methodology for allocating resident auditors, taking also into account the risks and complexity of the operation of individual peacekeeping operations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

33. *Stresses* that the due process rights afforded to staff under investigations have to withstand review by the system of the administration of justice, including in the context of the establishment of the new system;

34. *Notes with serious concern* the decision to advertise vacancies for positions not approved by the General Assembly, and stresses the need for vacancy announcements to be made in accordance with existing relevant provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations and that any changes involving administrative and financial implications shall be subject to the review and approval of the General Assembly in accordance with established procedures;

35. *Decides* to maintain, for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, the funding mechanism for the support account used in the current period, from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, as approved in paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/221 B of 7 June 1996;

36. *Takes note* of paragraph 175 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[6]

37. *Decides* not to introduce the proposed structure based on the hub approach at this stage, and decides to designate, as a pilot project, centres for investigations in Nairobi, Vienna and New York from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012;

38. *Recognizes* the value of resident investigators and decides to maintain resident investigations staff presence in some peacekeeping operations, pending its consideration of the comprehensive report referred to in paragraph 40 below;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary report on the status of implementation of the pilot project at the second resumed part of its sixty-fifth session;

40. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration, in the context of the 2012/2013 support account budget, after full consultations with all relevant stakeholders, integrating in particular the comments and observations of field missions, a comprehensive report on the pilot project, with a view to deciding on a restructuring of the Investigations Divisions of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, including:

(a) A complete qualitative analysis of the implementation of the three-year pilot project, including the lessons learned;

(b) A clear and transparent presentation of the existing structure and the pilot project structure and their respective coverage of field missions;

(c) A comprehensive cost-benefit analysis, including of the effectiveness and efficiency of the structure of the pilot project based on accurate assumptions, including an analysis of the long-term trend of investigations in field missions;

(d) Fully justified rationale for all deployments of investigations staff and resources and the ability of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to respond to changing caseload requirements;

(e) Complete and updated information on the current staffing, vacancy rate and caseload;

41. *Further requests* the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to request the Board of Auditors to conduct an audit of the implementation of the pilot project for the period of 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012, without prejudice to the role of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, and to report thereon separately to the General Assembly at the second resumed part of its sixty-sixth session;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

42. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;[7]

Budget estimates for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

43. *Approves* the support account requirements in the amount of 294,030,900 United States dollars for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, including 1,182 continuing posts, and 63 new temporary posts contained in annex I, and 83 continuing and 60 new general temporary assistance positions contained in annex II to the present resolution, as well as their related post and non-post requirements;

Financing of the budget estimates

44. *Decides* that the requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 shall be financed as follows:

(a) The unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 15,056,300 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, to be applied to the resources required for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;

(b) The amount of 7,322,600 dollars representing the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, to be applied to the resources required for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;

(c) The amount of 62,800 dollars representing the excess of the appropriation for the support account requirements in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007, to be applied to the resources required for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;

(d) The balance of 271,589,200 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;

[7] A/63/698 and Add.1.

(e) The estimated staff assessment income of 28,273,500 dollars, comprising the amount of 27,486,900 dollars for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and the increase of 786,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, to be set off against the balance referred to in subparagraph (d) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations.

Annex I

Support account posts to be established for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

Organizational unit		*Number of posts*	*Post level*
Department of Peacekeeping Operations			
Office of Operations	GTA conversion	1	1 P-5
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions	New	20	1 D-1, 1 P-5, 10 P-4, 7 P-3, 2 GS (OL)
	GTA conversion	1	P-3
Subtotal		**22**	
Department of Field Support			
Office of the Under Secretary-General	New	1	1 GS (PL)
Field Budget and Finance Division	New	2	2 P-4
Field Personnel Division	GTA conversion	2	2 P-3
Logistics Support Division	New	7	3 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 GS (PL)
	Reclassification		1 P-3 to P-4
	GTA conversion	1	GS (OL)
Subtotal		**13**	
Department of Management			
Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	New	2	1 P-4, 1 GS (OL)
	GTA conversion	4	1 P-4, 3 P-3
	Reclassification		1 P-3 to P-4; 1 P-4 to P-5
Office of Human Resources Management	New	11	1 P-4, 5 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 GS (PL), 3 GS (OL)
	GTA conversion	3	2 P-4, 1 GS (OL)
Office of Central Support Services	New	3	1 P-4, 2 P-3
Subtotal		**23**	
Office of Internal Oversight Services			
Inspection and Evaluation Division	New	1	1 P-4
Internal Audit Division	New	1	1 P-5
Subtotal		**2**	
Office of Legal Affairs	New	2	1 P-5, 1 P-4
Office of the United Nations Ombudsman	New	1	1 P-5
Total		**63**	**1D-1, 5 P-5, 23 P-4, 22 P-3, 1 P-2, 3 GS (PL), 8 GS (OL)**

Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level), GTA (general temporary assistance).

Annex II

Support account general temporary assistance positions to be established for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

Organizational unit		*Number of positions*	*Position level*
Department of Peacekeeping Operations			
Office of Operations	Continuation	2	1 P-4, 1 GS (OL)
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions	New	1	1 P-3
Policy, Evaluation and Training Division	Continuation	8	1 P-5, 3 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 GS (OL)
Subtotal		**11**	
Department of Field Support			
Field Personnel Division	Continuation	6	4 P-3, 2 GS (OL)
	New	13	11 P-3, 2 GS (OL)
Field Budget and Finance Division	Continuation	1	1 P-4
Logistics Support Division	Continuation	2	2 P-3
	New	1	1 P-3
Subtotal		**23**	
Department of Management			
Office of the Under-Secretary-General	New	2	1 P-4, 1 GS (OL)
Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	Continuation	14	5 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2, 4 GS (OL)
	New	22	5 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2, 12 GS (OL)
Office of Human Resources Management*	Continuation	3	3 GS (OL)
Office of Central Support Services	New	4	3 P-3, 1 P-2
Subtotal		**45**	
Office of Internal Oversight Services			
Investigations Division	Continuation	2	New York: 1 P-3, 1 GS (OL)
	New	7	New York: 1 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 GS (OL)
	Continuation	14	Vienna: 1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 7 P-3, 2 GS (OL), 1 GS (PL)
	New	6	Nairobi: 1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 GS (OL)
	Continuation	10	Nairobi: 3 P-4, 5 P-3, 2 GS (OL)

Organizational unit		*Number of positions*	*Position level*
	Continuation	12	MONUC: 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 NGS UNMIL: 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 NGS UNMIS: 1 P-4, 2 P-3 MINUSTAH: 1 P-4 UNOCI: 1 P-4
Subtotal		**51**	
Office of Legal Affairs	New	1	1 P-4
Ethics Office	Continuation	2	1 P-3, 1 GS (OL)
Office of Information and Communications Technology	Continuation	7	5 P-3, 2 GS (OL)
	New	3	1 P-5, 2 P-3
Total		**143**	

* *Note*: General temporary assistance positions equivalent to $2,018,900 (before the application of the approved vacancy rates).

Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other Level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); NGS (national General Service).

15. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Closed peacekeeping missions

The General Assembly,

(a) *Decides* to return two thirds of the credits available in the account of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission to the Government of Kuwait in the amount of 996,800 dollars;

(b) *Also decides* to continue to consider the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions during its sixty-fourth session.

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Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 41st and 55th meetings, on 11 May and 25 June 2009. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.41 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (A/63/551) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/773).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.43

4. At its 55th meeting, on 25 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi" (A/C.5/63/L.43), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.43 without a vote (see para. 6 below).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1545 (2004) of 21 May 2004, by which the Council authorized, for an initial period of six months as from 1 June 2004, with the intention to renew it for further periods, the deployment of a peacekeeping operation called the United Nations Operation in Burundi, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation, the last of which was resolution 1692 (2006) of 30 June 2006, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation until 31 December 2006,

Recalling also its resolution 58/312 of 18 June 2004 on the financing of the Operation and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 62/253 of 20 June 2008,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Operation in Burundi as at 31 March 2009, including the credits in the amount of 49.4 million United States dollars;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

Disposition of assets

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi;[1]

4. *Encourages* Member States that are owed credits for the closed peacekeeping mission accounts to apply those credits to any accounts where the Member State concerned has outstanding assessed contributions;

5. *Urges* all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions in full;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi".

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[1] A/63/551.
[2] A/63/773.

United Nations A/63/896

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 134

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 48th and 55th meetings, on 26 May and 25 June 2009. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.48 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/610);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/724);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/746/Add.7);

(d) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the programme evaluation of the performance and the achievement of results by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (A/63/713).

Please recycle

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.53

4. At its 55th meeting, on 25 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire" (A/C.5/63/L.53), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Bangladesh.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.53 without a vote (see para. 6 below).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire,[1] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the programme evaluation of the performance and the achievement of results by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire,[3]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1528 (2004) of 27 February 2004, by which the Council established the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for an initial period of twelve months as from 4 April 2004, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation, the latest of which was resolution 1865 (2009) of 27 January 2009, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation until 31 July 2009,

Recalling also its resolution 58/310 of 18 June 2004 on the financing of the Operation and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 62/254 of 20 June 2008,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Operation with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire as at 30 April 2009, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 132.2 million United States dollars, representing some 6 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only forty-nine Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every

[1] A/63/610 and A/63/724.

[2] A/63/746/Add.7.

[3] A/63/713.

possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Operation in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Operation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give consideration to making the fullest possible use of the facilities at the Entebbe logistics hub in Uganda;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

11. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

12. *Takes note* of paragraph 10 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266 and 61/276;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Operation is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

15. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Operation against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Operation;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the programme evaluation of the performance and the achievement of results by the Operation,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of its recommendations;

17. *Expresses concern* with the comments of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contained in paragraphs 14, 31 and 32 of its report;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

19. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire the amount of 513,442,600 dollars for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, inclusive of the amount of 491,774,100 dollars for the maintenance of the Operation, 18,033,500 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 3,635,000 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

20. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 42,786,883 dollars for the period from 1 to 31 July 2009 in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243 of 22 December 2006, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237 of 22 December 2006;

21. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 990,333 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 803,992 dollars approved for the Operation, the prorated share of 156,441 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 29,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

22. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 470,655,717 dollars for the period from 1 August 2009 to 30 June 2010, at a monthly rate of 42,786,883 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2009, as set out in resolution 61/237, and for 2010,[5] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Operation;

23. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 22 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 10,893,667 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 8,843,908 dollars approved for the Operation, the prorated share of 1,720,859 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 328,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

24. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Operation, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 19,500,000 dollars in respect of the

[4] A/63/610.

[5] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008, as set out in its resolution 61/237;

25. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Operation, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 19,500,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 24 above;

26. *Also decides* that the decrease of 156,100 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008 shall be set off against the credits from the amount of 19,500,000 dollars referred to in paragraphs 24 and 25 above;

27. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

28. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participation in the Operation, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

29. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Operation in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire".

United Nations A/63/897

General Assembly

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Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 46th and 55th meetings, on 20 May and 25 June 2009. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.46 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/536);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/693);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/746/Add.9).

09-38242 (E) 260609

Please recycle

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.54

4. At its 55th meeting, on 25 June 2009, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus" (A/C.5/63/L.54), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Morocco.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.54 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, regarding the establishment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1873 (2009) of 29 May 2009, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 15 December 2009,

Recalling also its resolution 47/236 of 14 September 1993 on the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 62/255 of 20 June 2008,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force by certain Governments,

Noting that voluntary contributions were insufficient to cover all the costs of the Force, including those incurred by troop-contributing Governments prior to 16 June 1993, and regretting the absence of an adequate response to appeals for voluntary contributions, including that contained in the letter dated 17 May 1994 from the Secretary-General to all Member States,[3]

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Acknowledging paragraph 31 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus as at 30 April 2009, including the contributions

[1] A/63/536 and A/63/693.

[2] A/63/746/Add.9.

[3] S/1994/647.

outstanding in the amount of 16.6 million United States dollars, representing some 5 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only forty-eight Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of the facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

10. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

11. *Notes* the reduction in rotation travel costs, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to increase efficiency gains in this regard;

12. *Takes note* of paragraph 38 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

13. *Welcomes* the progress which has been made so far by the host Government and the Force regarding the renovation of the accommodation of military contingent personnel as well as other personnel of the Force, and requests the Secretary-General to continue making every effort, in coordination with the host Government, to ensure that the renovations are completed as scheduled, without delay, and to report thereon in the context of the next budget submission;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266 and 61/276;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

17. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

18. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the Force the amount of 56,794,900 dollars for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, inclusive of 54,412,700 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 1,982,600 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 399,600 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

19. *Notes with appreciation* that a one-third share of the net appropriation, equivalent to 18,074,373 dollars, will be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus and the amount of 6.5 million dollars from the Government of Greece;

20. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 32,220,527 dollars at a monthly rate of 2,685,044 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243 of 22 December 2006, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2009, as set out in General Assembly resolution 61/237 of 22 December 2006, and for 2010,[5] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

21. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,517,500 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,271,700 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 206,400 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 39,400 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

22. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 704,903 dollars for the financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008, as set out in its resolution 61/237;

23. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations,

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[4] A/63/536.

[5] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 704,903 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 22 above;

24. *Also decides*, that the increase in the estimated staff assessment income of 214,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008 shall be added to the credits from the amount of 704,903 dollars referred to in paragraphs 22 and 23 above;

25. *Further decides*, taking into account its voluntary contribution for the financial period ended 30 June 2008, that one third of other income in the amount of 436,090 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008 shall be returned to the Government of Cyprus;

26. *Decides*, taking into account its voluntary contribution for the financial period ended 30 June 2008, that the prorated share of other income in the amount of 169,307 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008 shall be returned to the Government of Greece;

27. *Also decides* to continue to maintain as separate the account established for the Force for the period prior to 16 June 1993, invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to that account, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in appealing for voluntary contributions to the account;

28. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

29. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Force, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

30. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus".

United Nations A/63/898

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 136

Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 51st and 55th meetings, on 3 and 25 June 2009. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.51 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/563);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/806);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/746/Add.16).

09-38254 (E) 260609

Please recycle

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.55

4. At its 55th meeting, on 25 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" (A/C.5/63/L.55), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Nicaragua.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.55 without a vote (see para. 6 below).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,[1] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and the oral statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1258 (1999) of 6 August 1999 and 1279 (1999) of 30 November 1999 regarding, respectively, the deployment to the region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of military liaison personnel and the establishment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which were resolution 1843 (2008) of 20 November 2008, by which the Council authorized a temporary increase of the Mission's authorized military strength by up to 2,785 military personnel and the strength of its formed police unit by up to 300 personnel, and resolution 1856 (2008) of 22 December 2008, by which the Council extended the deployment of the Mission until 31 December 2009 and authorized the continuation until that date of up to 19,815 military personnel, 760 military observers, 391 police personnel and 1,050 personnel of formed police units,

Recalling also its resolution 54/260 A of 7 April 2000 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 62/256 of 20 June 2008,

Recalling further its resolution 58/315 of 1 July 2004,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of

[1] A/63/563 and A/63/806.

[2] A/63/746/Add.16.

[3] See A/C.5/63/SR.51.

General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as at 30 April 2009, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 274.0 million United States dollars, representing some 4 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only forty-two Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Acknowledges with appreciation* that the use of the logistics hub in Entebbe, Uganda, has been cost-effective and has resulted in savings for the United Nations, and welcomes the expansion of the logistics hub to provide logistical support to peacekeeping operations in the region and to contribute further to their enhanced efficiency and responsiveness, taking into account the ongoing efforts in this regard;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

11. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and the oral statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

12. *Takes note* of paragraphs 48 and 49 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and decides to approve

16 general temporary assistance positions for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region for six months;

13. *Also takes note* of paragraph 69 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266 and 61/276;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

17. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

18. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo the amount of 1,405,912,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, inclusive of 1,346,584,600 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 49,374,900 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 9,952,500 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

19. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 702,956,000 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243 of 22 December 2006, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2009, as set out in General Assembly resolution 61/237 of 22 December 2006;

20. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 19 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the amount of 16,179,450 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 13,118,150 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 2,570,050 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 491,250 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

21. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 702,956,000 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2010 at a monthly rate of 117,159,333 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 61/243,

[4] A/63/563.

and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2010,[5] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

22. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 21 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the amount of 16,179,450 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 13,118,150 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 2,570,050 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 491,250 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

23. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 19 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 69,974,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008, as set out in its resolution 61/237;

24. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 69,974,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 23 above;

25. *Also decides* that the decrease of 330,100 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008 shall be set off against the credits from the amount of 69,974,500 dollars referred to in paragraphs 23 and 24 above;

26. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

27. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

28. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

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[5] To be adopted by the General Assembly.